REDRIDGE TIMBER CRIB DAM
Across the Salmon Trout Dam
Beacon Hill
Houghton County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-11

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

REDRIDGE TIMBER CRIB DAM

Location:	Across the Salmon Trout River, Beacon Hill, Houghton County, Michigan
UTM:	16.366260.5223000
Date of Construction:	1894
Designer/Builder:	Unknown
Owner:	Atlantic Mining Company
Use:	No longer in operation.
Significanca:	The Atlantic Mining Company constructed this log dam across the Salmon Trout River to supply water to their stamping plant at nearby Redridge, on the shores of Lake Superior. It was completed in 1894, constructed entirely from local materials by a workforce of three hundred men housed in temporary shacks in this remote area. It consists of a timber framework filled with rock and earth. Overall, the dam is 51 feet long at the base and 228 feet long at the crest. It stands 50 feet high, 53 feet thick at the base, and 28 feet thick at the top. The flow of water was controlled through three channels: the supply launder leading to the mill, constructed of wood planking and measuring 18 inches by 36 inches by 2,050 feet long, with a run of 5 inches per 100 feet of length; two 24 inch diameter cast iron waste pipes located at the base of the dam; and a spillway located at the crest of the center of the dam, 30 feet wide, double-planked, and equipped with wooden flashboards. The dam itself is extant, but the waste pipes and supply launder are not. When the Baltic Mining Company erected a stamp mill west of the Salmon Trout River, this dam was not large enough to supply the needs of both mills, so it was replaced in 1901 by a higher steel dam built slightly downstream. This log dam was then submerged to a depth of 20 feet until recently, when the water level behind the steel

dam was dropped, thus exposing the older structure.
(Houghton Daily Mining Gazette, October 7, 1967, pp. 1, 9; Stevens, 11 (1902), p. 127; Engineering and Mining Journal, LVII (May 1894), p. 494; Engineering and Mining Journal, LIX (March 1895), p. 246.

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, from data compiled by Charles K. Hyde, 1984.